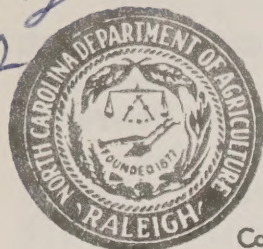


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Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

No. 184

RALEIGH, N. C.

MAY 18, 1955

U. S. FARM CASH RECEIPTS

January - March 1955

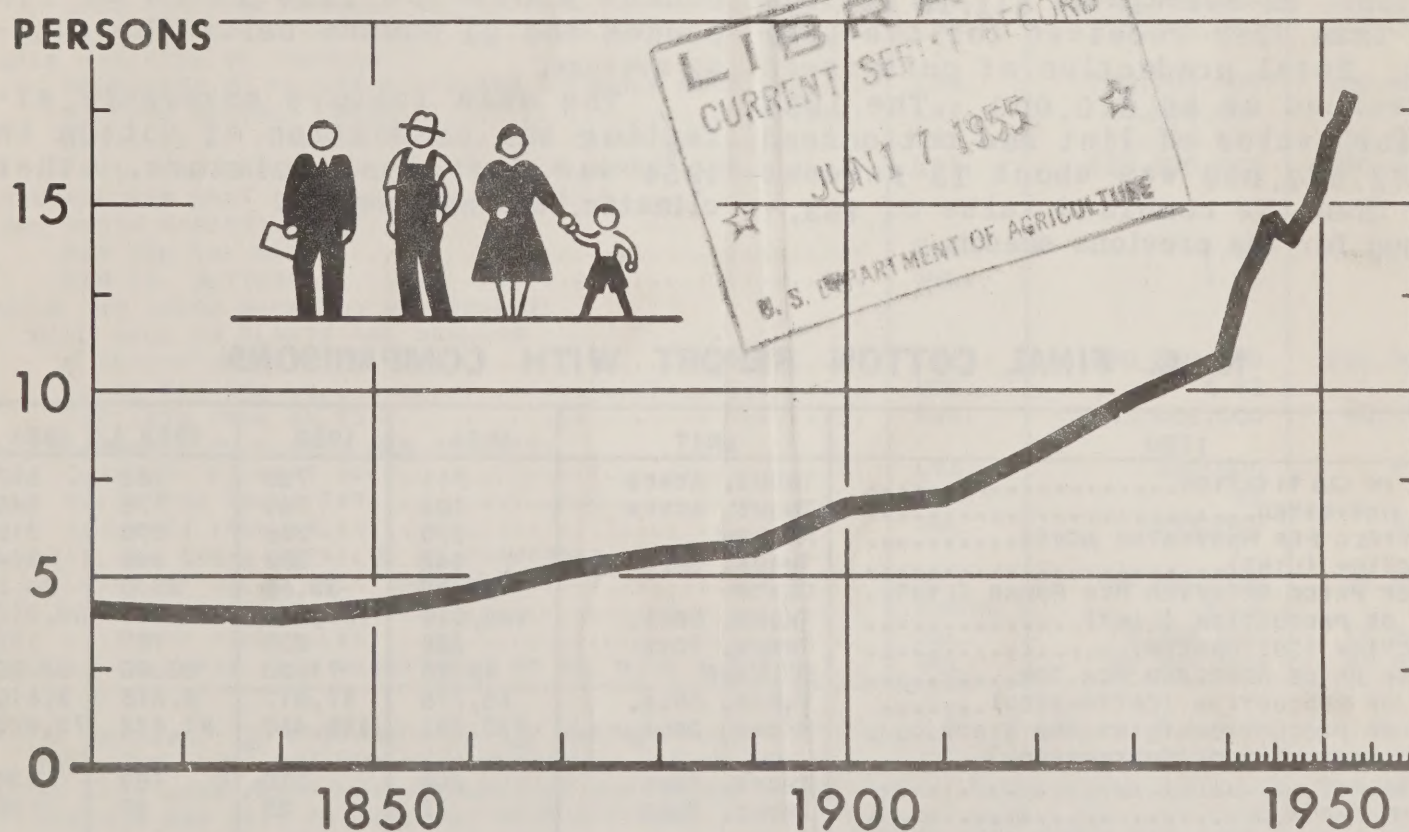
Cash receipts from farm marketings in the first quarter of 1955 totaled approximately 6.4 billion dollars, down 5 percent from last year. The total volume of marketings was about the same as a year ago, but prices averaged 5 percent lower. First-quarter livestock receipts of 3.8

billion dollars were down nearly 10 percent because of lower average prices, but crop receipts of 2.6 billion were practically the same as in the first quarter of last year.

Cash receipts in February totaled 1.9 billion dollars, down seasonally

(See Page 2)

PERSONS SUPPORTED BY ONE FARM WORKER



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 54 (9)-909 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

In 1840, each farm worker produced enough food, fiber, and tobacco to supply himself and nearly 3 other persons. By 1900, one farm worker produced enough for himself and almost 6 additional consumers. In 1953 one worker pro-

duced farm products for himself and almost 17 other persons. Improved technology, both on and off the farm, has enabled farmers to produce more with fewer workers. Much of this increase has occurred since 1940.

CASH RECEIPTS (Continued)

from January and 4 percent less than cash receipts in February of last year. Receipts from livestock and products were 1.2 billion dollars, down 10 percent from a year earlier, and crop receipts were 0.7 billion slightly higher than in February of last year.

The preliminary estimate of cash receipts in March is 1.9 billion dollars, about the same as in February but 4 percent lower than a year earlier. March receipts from livestock and products are estimated at 1.3 billion dollars, crop receipts at 0.6 billion.



N. C. COTTON AND COTTONSEED PRODUCTION, 1954

A 1954 cotton crop of 364,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight was indicated by ginnings for the season in North Carolina. The 1954 crop was 19 percent below the 449,000 bales grown in 1953 and about 28 percent less than the 10-year 1943-52 average production of 506,000 bales.

Cottonseed production from the 1954 crop totaled 155,000 tons compared with 185,000 tons in 1953. It is indicated that North Carolina farmers received an average price of \$62.00 per ton. An average of \$11.10 per ton more than they received for the 1953 crop. Total production of cottonseed was valued at \$9,610,000. The 1954 combined value of lint and cottonseed of \$72,922,000 was about 13 percent less than the combined value of \$83,622,000 for the previous season.

Cotton in cultivation on July 1, 1954 in North Carolina is estimated at 557,000 acres -- 225,000 acres below the acreage in cultivation on July 1, 1953 and 161,000 below the 1943-52 average. This reduction in acreage was due to allotments which were put in effect in 1954 for the first time since 1950. Abandonment of acreage in cultivation on July 1 was placed at 12,000 acres, leaving 545,000 acres harvested.

The average lint yield per acre of 319 pounds for North Carolina is 41 pounds above the 1954 yield of 278 pounds and 21 pounds below the 1943-52 average.

The main factors adversely affecting the production of cotton in 1954 was deficient moisture, other climatic, and boll weevil.

N. C. FINAL COTTON REPORT WITH COMPARISONS

| ITEM | UNIT | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 ^{1/} | 1954 |
|--|----------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|--------|
| ACRES IN CULTIVATION..... | THOUS. ACRES | 711 | 753 | 782 | 557 |
| ACRES HARVESTED..... | THOUS. ACRES | 702 | 745 | 775 | 545 |
| LINT YIELD PER HARVESTED ACRES..... | POUNDS | 370 | 366 | 278 | 319 |
| PRODUCTION (LINT)..... | THOUS. BALES ^{2/} | 542 | 569 | 449 | 364 |
| AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED PER POUND (LINT)..... | CENTS | 38.75 | 35.68 | 33.0 | 34.8 |
| VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT)..... | THOUS. DOLS. | 105,019 | 101,471 | 74,206 | 63,312 |
| PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED)..... | THOUS. TONS | 228 | 239 | 185 | 155 |
| AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED PER TON..... | DOLLARS | 69.20 | 71.20 | 50.90 | 62.00 |
| VALUE OF PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED)..... | THOUS. DOLS. | 15,778 | 17,017 | 9,416 | 9,610 |
| VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT AND SEED)..... | THOUS. DOLS. | 120,797 | 118,488 | 83,622 | 72,922 |
| FARM DISPOSITION OF COTTONSEED: | | | | | |
| CASH SALES..... | THOUS. TONS | 203 | 210 | 165 | 135 |
| USED ON FARMS ^{3/} | THOUS. TONS | 25 | 29 | 20 | 20 |
| REDUCTION FROM FULL YIELD PER ACRE FROM: | | | | | |
| DEFICIENT MOISTURE..... | PERCENT | 5 | 7 | 14 | 17 |
| EXCESSIVE MOISTURE..... | PERCENT | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| OTHER CLIMATIC..... | PERCENT | 2 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| BOLL WEEVIL..... | PERCENT | 11 | 9 | 15 | 7 |
| OTHER INSECTS..... | PERCENT | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| TOTAL REDUCTION FROM FULL YIELD..... | PERCENT | 21 | 22 | 36 | 35 |

^{1/} Revised. ^{2/} 500 pound gross weight bales. ^{3/} Includes some sales between farms.

N. C. MILK PRODUCTION UP

Milk production on North Carolina farms during 1954 totaled 1.7 billion pounds, 9 million pounds above 1953 production of 1,695,000,000 pounds.

Cash receipts from marketings of all milk and cream were \$55,528,000 about 1.5 percent below 1953. Producers received an average of \$5.85 per 100 pounds for whole milk compared with

\$6.09 per hundred during 1953.

950 million pounds of combined milk and cream were sold by producers in 1954 -- an increase of 2.7 percent above 1953 sales.

Milk production per cow at 4,520 pounds was 60 pounds above the 1953 average of 4,460 pounds.

FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME FROM MILK IN NORTH CAROLINA 1953-54

| ITEM | UNIT | 1953 <u>1/</u> | 1954 <u>2/</u> |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| FARM PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF MILK: | | | |
| NUMBER OF MILK COWS ON FARMS <u>3/</u> | No. | 380,000 | 377,000 |
| PRODUCTION OF MILK AND BUTTERFAT: | | | |
| MILK PRODUCTION PER MILK COW <u>4/</u> | LBS. | 4,460 | 4,520 |
| MILKFAT PRODUCTION PER MILK COW..... | LBS. | 192 | 194 |
| PERCENTAGE OF FAT IN MILK..... | % | 4.3 | 4.3 |
| TOTAL MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS <u>4/</u> | LBS. | 1,695,000,000 | 1,704,000,000 |
| TOTAL MILKFAT PRODUCTION ON FARMS <u>4/</u> | LBS. | 73,000,000 | 73,000,000 |
| BUTTER CHURNED ON FARMS..... | LBS. | 18,400,000 | 17,700,000 |
| VALUE OF MILK USED FOR FARM CONSUMPTION..... | | | |
| AND FARM BUTTER <u>5/</u> | DOL. | 44,822,000 | 42,237,000 |
| GROSS FARM INCOME FROM DAIRY PRODUCTS <u>6/</u> | DOL. | 101,181,000 | 97,765,000 |
| FARM VALUE OF MILK PRODUCED <u>7/</u> | DOL. | 103,226,000 | 99,684,000 |
| MILK USED & MARKETING BY FARMERS | | | |
| AND CASH RETURNS PER UNIT MARKETING | | | |
| MILK USED ON FARMS WHERE PRODUCED: | | | |
| FED TO CALVES..... | LBS. | 34,000,000 | 32,000,000 |
| CONSUMED AS FLUID MILK OR CREAM..... | LBS. | 385,000,000 | 384,000,000 |
| USED FOR FARM CHURNED BUTTER..... | LBS. | 351,000,000 | 338,000,000 |
| TOTAL UTILIZED ON FARMS..... | LBS. | 770,000,000 | 754,000,000 |
| MILK MARKETING BY FARMERS: | | | |
| DELIVERED TO PLANTS & DEALERS AS WHOLE MILK..... | LBS. | 790,000,000 | 820,000,000 |
| AS FARM SKIMMED CREAM..... | LBS. | 10,000,000 | 10,000,000 |
| RETAILED BY FARMERS AS MILK AND CREAM <u>8/</u> | LBS. | 125,000,000 | 120,000,000 |
| TOTAL IN COMBINED MILK AND CREAM MARKETINGS..... | LBS. | 925,000,000 | 950,000,000 |
| AVERAGE PER UNIT CASH RETURNS FROM MILK | | | |
| AND CREAM MARKETINGS <u>9/</u>: | | | |
| PER 100 LB. MILK..... | DOL. | 6.09 | 5.85 |
| PER LB. BUTTERFAT..... | DOL. | 1.42 | 1.36 |
| MILK AND CREAM MARKETING BY FARMERS: | | | |
| MILK SOLD TO PLANTS AND DEALERS | | | |
| QUANTITY SOLD..... | LBS. | 790,000,000 | 820,000,000 |
| PRICE PER 100 LB..... | DOL. | 5.52 | 5.27 |
| RECEIPTS FROM SALES..... | DOL. | 43,608,000 | 43,214,000 |
| CREAM SOLD TO PLANTS AND DEALERS: | | | |
| QUANTITY MILKFAT SOLD..... | LBS. | 420,000 | 420,000 |
| PRICE PER POUND FAT..... | CENTS | 53 | 52 |
| RECEIPTS FROM SALES..... | DOL. | 223,000 | 218,000 |
| MILK AND CREAM RETAILED BY FARMERS: | | | |
| QUANTITY SOLD, MILK EQUIVALENT..... | QT. | 58,000,000 | 56,000,000 |
| PRICE PER QUART..... | CENTS | 21.6 | 21.6 |
| RECEIPTS FROM SALES..... | DOL. | 12,528,000 | 12,096,000 |
| CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS OF ALL MILK & CREAM.... | DOL. | 56,359,000 | 55,528,000 |

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average number during years, heifers that have not freshened excluded. 4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves and milk produced by cows not on farms. 5/ Milk used for fluid consumption and home-milk butter on farms where produced, valued at average per unit returns for milk utilized in all farms of sale. 6/ Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for farm consumption and farm butter churned. 7/ Gross farm income plus value of milk fed to calves. 8/ Approximations based on Health Officers' reports of sources of fluid milk in villages, towns, and small cities, and information on sales by producer-distributors. 9/ Computed from the cash receipts from marketings of all milk and cream divided by the quantity of milk or butterfat represented in the marketings.

REVISED PRODUCTION OF FLUE-CURED TOBACCO IN ALL STATES AND BURLEY TOBACCO BY UNITED STATES, 1953-1954 *

| PRODUCING STATE | TYPE NO. | ACREAGE HARVESTED | | YIELD PER ACRE | | PRODUCTION | | AV. PRICE PER LB. REC'D BY FARMERS | | VALUE OF PRODUCTION | |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | 1953 | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 |
| | | ACRES | | POUNDS | | THOUSAND POUNDS | | CENTS | | THOUSAND DOLLARS | |
| FLUE-CURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTH CAROLINA..... | 11 | 258,000 | 266,000 | 1,015 | 1,120 | 261,870 | 297,920 | 44.6 | 52.7 | 116,794 | 157,004 |
| NORTH CAROLINA..... | 12 | 331,000 | 334,000 | 1,360 | 1,430 | 450,160 | 477,620 | 57.9 | 55.3 | 260,643 | 264,124 |
| NORTH CAROLINA..... | 13 | 85,000 | 86,000 | 1,415 | 1,325 | 120,275 | 113,950 | 57.9 | 54.3 | 69,639 | 61,875 |
| TOTAL N. C. FLUE-CURED.... | 11-13 | 674,000 | 686,000 | 1,235 | 1,297 | 832,305 | 889,490 | 53.7 | 54.3 | 447,076 | 483,003 |
| VIRGINIA..... | 11 | 101,000 | 103,000 | 1,120 | 1,220 | 113,120 | 125,660 | 42.3 | 52.3 | 47,850 | 65,720 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA..... | 13 | 122,000 | 126,000 | 1,415 | 1,175 | 172,630 | 148,050 | 56.4 | 49.0 | 97,363 | 72,544 |
| GEORGIA..... | 14 | 103,000 | 105,000 | 1,270 | 1,170 | 130,810 | 122,850 | 51.5 | 45.6 | 67,367 | 56,020 |
| FLORIDA..... | 14 | 21,200 | 21,500 | 1,070 | 1,290 | 22,684 | 27,735 | 51.5 | 53.5 | 11,682 | 14,838 |
| ALABAMA..... | 14 | 600 | 700 | 1,085 | 888 | 651 | 622 | 49.0 | 49.0 | 319 | 305 |
| TOTAL ALL FLUE-CURED TYPES | 11-14 | 1,021,800 | 1,042,200 | 1,245 | 1,261 | 1,272,200 | 1,314,407 | 52.8 | 52.7 | 671,657 | 692,430 |
| BURLEY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTH CAROLINA..... | 31 | 11,400 | 12,700 | 1,800 | 1,920 | 20,520 | 24,384 | 53.7 | 52.0 | 11,019 | 12,680 |
| KENTUCKY..... | 31 | 287,000 | 284,000 | 1,335 | 1,595 | 383,145 | 452,980 | 52.8 | 50.0 | 202,301 | 226,490 |
| TENNESSEE..... | 31 | 78,000 | 80,000 | 1,290 | 1,445 | 100,620 | 115,600 | 52.2 | 48.9 | 52,524 | 56,528 |
| VIRGINIA..... | 31 | 13,600 | 14,100 | 1,500 | 1,880 | 20,400 | 26,508 | 49.7 | 50.7 | 10,139 | 13,440 |
| WEST VIRGINIA..... | 31 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 1,465 | 1,550 | 4,542 | 4,960 | 55.9 | 50.2 | 2,539 | 2,490 |
| TOTAL ALL LIGHT AIR-CURED. | 31-32 | 464,700 | 470,900 | 1,302 | 1,507 | 604,913 | 709,672 | 52.7 | 50.1 | 318,519 | 355,635 |
| UNITED STATES, ALL TOBACCO 1/ | ALL | 1,632,900 | 1,666,100 | 1,261 | 1,342 | 2,059,260 | 2,236,408 | 52.3 | 51.4 | 1,076,350 | 1,150,210 |

* 1953 Revised; 1954 Preliminary.

1/ Includes types not shown - and price and value data includes 1954 Maryland crop using 1953 crop price.

The production of all tobacco in North Carolina in 1954 totaled 913,874,000 pounds about 9 percent more than was produced in 1953. Of the above production flue-cured production was 889,490,000 pounds and burley 24,384,000 pounds. All types of tobacco grown in the State were harvested from 698,700 acres. This was 13,300 acres above the 1953 harvested acreage.

Value of all types for the State amounted to \$495, -

683,000 compared with \$458,095,000 for 1953.

Production, Acreage harvested, and yield per acre of flue-cured was above 1953. Value of flue-cured production was placed at \$483,003,000 with an average price of 54.3 cents per pound received by the farmer.

The burley yield per acre estimated at 1920 pounds was the highest of record and averaged 52 cents per pound.

The value of the burley crop was \$12,680,000.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES

Production of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina for 1955 is currently estimated at 3,220,000 bushels -- 5 percent less than the 3,375,000 bushels produced last year and 35 percent less than the 1944-53 average of 4,954,000 bushels.

Current prospects point to a per acre yield of 230 bushels on 14,000 acres for harvest. Such a yield would be 20 bushels below that realized for 1954, but 36 bushels above average.

The North Carolina crop has made remarkable recovery from the effects of the late March freeze and prospects on May 1 were generally good. The crop is reported to be about a week behind schedule with some digging of early varieties expected during the first week of June.

Total production for the late Spring group of States (including North Carolina) is estimated at 35,305,000 bushels, 4 percent above the 1954 crop, but 14 percent below average. The expected production in California at 28,000,000 bushels accounts for about 80 percent of the late Spring crop. Except

for California, the production in each state is below 1954 and below average. Except in Alabama, the crop in the late Spring producing States has made some recovery from the March freeze. In general, harvest will be about 1 week to 2 weeks later than usual.

In Alabama, heavy rains during the early part of April did further damage to the crop and loss of acreage is expected to amount to about 50 percent of the planted acreage. Prospective production of 840,000 bushels is only 24 percent as large as the 1954 production. Prospects in South Carolina vary considerably, and early plantings have not made as good recovery from the freeze as expected. Harvest will probably start the week of May 30. California's yield per acre is expected to be equal to last year on an expanded acreage. The prevailing cool weather has held back the maturity of the crop and shipments, mostly from the Edison Section, have been late. The Edison and Arvin districts are waiting for the crop to mature.



INDICATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF LATE SPRING POTATOES, 1955, BY STATES

| CROP AND STATE | ACREAGE | | | YIELD PER ACRE | | | PRODUCTION | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|------|----------------|--------------------------|--------|----------------|
| | 10-year Average | | Indi- cated | 10-yr. Avg. | | Indi- cated | 10-yr. Avg. | | Indi- cated |
| | 1944-53 | 1954 | 1955 | 44-53 | 1954 | 1955 | 44-53 | 1954 | 1955 |
| | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres Prelim.</i> | <i>Bushels</i> | | | <i>- 1,000 Bushels -</i> | | |
| Late Spring | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 25,850 | 13,500 | 14,000 | 194 | 250 | 230 | 4,954 | 3,375 | 3,220 |
| California | 69,700 | 57,000 | 70,000 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 27,770 | 22,800 | 28,000 |
| Louisiana | 11,680 | 5,500 | 4,600 | 75 | 100 | 45 | 798 | 550 | 207 |
| Mississippi | 2,060 | 600 | 650 | 87 | 110 | 75 | 181 | 66 | 49 |
| Alabama | 22,100 | 19,700 | 14,000 | 138 | 180 | 60 | 3,023 | 3,546 | 840 |
| Georgia | 1,250 | 600 | 600 | 123 | 115 | 80 | 147 | 69 | 48 |
| South Carolina | 9,500 | 7,000 | 6,500 | 151 | 190 | 150 | 1,396 | 1,330 | 975 |
| Arizona | 4,100 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 370 | 365 | 350 | 1,518 | 1,460 | 1,400 |
| Texas | 5,320 | 4,200 | 3,800 | 70 | 70 | 60 | 368 | 294 | 228 |
| Oklahoma | 1,180 | 500 | 500 | 119 | 190 | 180 | 140 | 95 | 90 |
| Arkansas | 3,480 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 86 | 95 | 75 | 304 | 142 | 98 |
| Tennessee | 3,830 | 1,600 | 1,300 | 115 | 150 | 115 | 446 | 240 | 150 |
| Group Total | 160,040 | 115,700 | 121,250 | 262 | 294 | 291 | 41,044 | 33,967 | 35,305 |

// Group averages are simple averages of annual data for the group.

FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1954, NORTH CAROLINA

| CROPS | UNIT | PRODUCTION | USED FOR SEED | | FED TO LIVESTOCK | FOR USE IN FARM HOUSEHOLD | SOLD | SEASON'S AVE. PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS | VALUE OF PRODUCTION | VALUE OF PRODUCTS USED IN HOUSEHOLD | VALUE OF SALES |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | | TOTAL | ON FARM WHERE GROWN | | | | | | | |
| - THOUSANDS - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - DOLLARS - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - THOUSAND DOLLARS - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1954 PRELIMINARY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WHEAT..... | BU. | 7,436 | 546 | 426 | 1,933 | 650 | 4,427 | 2.04 | 15,169 | 1,326 | 9,031 |
| RYE..... | BU. | 270 | 157 | 33 | 100 | - | 137 | 2.10 | 567 | - | 288 |
| CORN, ALL PURPOSES..... | BU. | 50,784 | 43,812 * | - | * | 1,260 | 5,712 | 1.65 | 83,794 | 2,079 | 9,425 |
| OATS..... | BU. | 20,397 | 14,482 * | - | * | - | 5,915 | .79 | 16,114 | - | 4,673 |
| BARLEY..... | BU. | 1,938 | 1,454 * | - | * | - | 484 | 1.14 | 2,209 | - | 552 |
| SORGHUM GRAIN..... | BU. | 2,225 | 1,135 * | - | * | - | 1,090 | 1.38 | 3,070 | - | 1,504 |
| COWPEAS FOR PEAS..... | BU. | 72 | 72 | 48 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 5.00 | 360 | 30 | 75 |
| SOYBEANS FOR BEANS..... | BU. | 4,720 | 563 | 310 | 94 | - | 4,316 | 2.65 | 12,508 | - | 11,437 |
| PEANUTS, PICKED AND THRESHED..... | LBS. | 285,450 | 13,500 | 9,450 | 285** | 2,065 | 273,650 | .134 | 38,250 | 277 | 38,669 |
| HAY, ALL..... | TONS | 1,081 | - | - | 1,004 | - | 77 | 34.00 | 36,754 | - | 2,618 |
| LESPEDEZA SEED (CLEAN)..... | LBS. | 18,720 | - | 8,798 | - | - | 9,922 | 21.40 | 4,006 | - | 2,123 |
| IRISH POTATOES, ALL..... | BU. | 5,889 | 546 | 76 | 206 | 1,500 | 4,107 | 1.48 | 8,716 | 2,220 | 6,078 |
| SWEET POTATOES..... | BU. | 3,999 | 280 | 185 | 1,000 | 1,530 | 1,284 | 2.74 | 10,957 | 4,192 | 3,518 |
| SORGHUM SIRUP..... | GALS. | 168 | - | - | - | 120 | 48 | 2.70 | 454 | - | 130 |
| TOBACCO, ALL..... | LBS. | 913,874 | - | - | - | - | 913,874 | .542 | 495,683 | - | 495,683 |
| TYPE 11..... | LBS. | 297,920 | - | - | - | - | 297,920 | .527 | 157,004 | - | 157,004 |
| TYPE 12..... | LBS. | 477,620 | - | - | - | - | 477,620 | .553 | 264,124 | - | 264,124 |
| TYPE 13..... | LBS. | 113,950 | - | - | - | - | 113,950 | .543 | 61,875 | - | 61,875 |
| TYPE 31..... | LBS. | 24,384 | - | - | - | - | 24,384 | .520 | 12,680 | - | 12,680 |
| COTTON..... | BALES | 364 | - | - | - | - | 364 | .348 | 63,312 | - | 63,312 |
| COTTONSEED..... | TONS | 155 | - | - | - | - | 135 | 62.00 | 9,610 | - | 8,370 |

* Feed and seed not shown separately - combined.

** Fed to Livestock and lost.

*** Average price per pound.

INDICATED WHEAT CROP HARVEST SINCE 1950

The 1955 Tarheel wheat crop is estimated at 5,832,000 bushels. A crop of this size, if realized, would be 22 percent less than the 1954 crop of 7,436,000 bushels. Condition reports made by growers, as of May 1, indicate an average yield per acre of 18 bushels. This compares with a yield of 22 bushels last year and is five bushels less than the record yield of 23 bushels set in 1951. The freeze in late March damaged the crop and is responsible for the relatively low yield this year. Prior to the time of the freeze the crop had made normal or better progress.

The North Carolina 1955 wheat acreage for harvest is estimated at 324,000 acres. This is 14,000 acres or 4 percent less than the 338,000 acres harvested last year.

APRIL WEATHER SUMMARY, 1955

True to tradition, April was a showery month with a good deal of wind, lightning and hail thrown in. Light to heavy showers fell on most sections from the 5th through the 7th. On the 11th and 12th hail storms hit the mountain counties; hailstones up to 1½ inches in diameter were reported in Avery and Madison counties. Moderate to heavy thundershowers occurred in the mountains on the 13th and spread to the coast on the 14th and 15th. Violent windstorms leveled farm buildings in Robeson and Columbus counties on the 14th. A weather front approaching from the west on the 24th set off heavy thunderstorms accompanied by high winds and hail at scattered locations. Damage approaching a million dollars was reported in the counties of Mecklenburg, Union, Anson, Forsyth and Guilford, while high winds blew down a number of trees in the Asheville area.

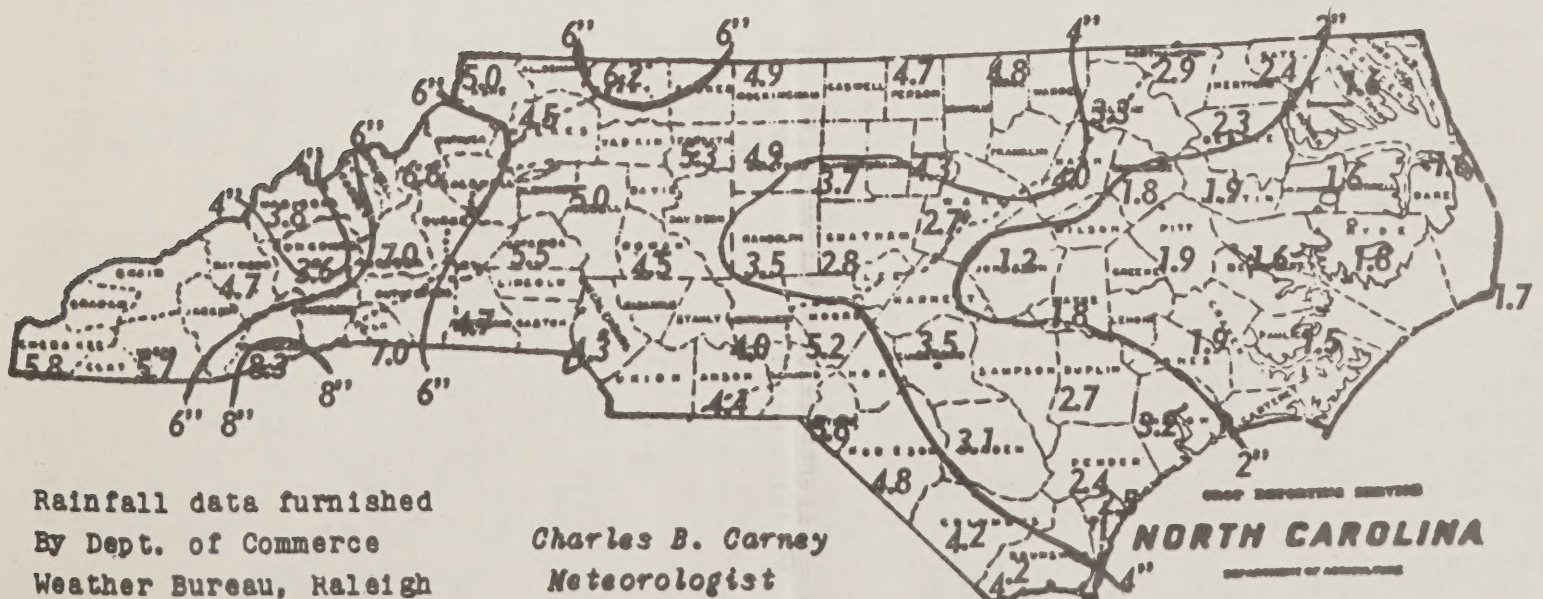
An offshore low pressure system gave cool weather for the next several days followed by a slow warming trend for the rest of the month.

Temperatures averaged from 2 to 5 degrees above normal for the month. During the first week readings were about seasonable becoming 5-7 degrees warmer than average during the second

week and about 10 degrees warmer than usual during the third week. The rest of the month was cool in the mountains and seasonable elsewhere. The first day of the month was the coolest in many sections with lowest readings in the upper 20's and low 30's in numerous northern and mountain locations. However, the 8th and 9th days had the lowest readings over the major portion of the state with minimum readings in the middle 20's at higher mountain elevations and in the 30's and low 40's elsewhere. The 18th, 19th and 20th were the warmest days of the month with highest afternoon temperatures reaching the middle 80's in the mountains and near 90 elsewhere.

Rainfall averaged from 1-3 inches above normal over much of the Mountains and Piedmont, near seasonable along the lower coast, and from ½ to 2 inches below normal at some central Piedmont locations and over most of the Coastal Plain. Heaviest rain of the month fell on the 13th and 14th days with numerous reporting stations measuring 24-hour totals of from 1 to 4 inches. The week ending April 22nd was the driest of the month with rainfall averaging about 2/3 inch below normal. The last week of month had seasonable rainfall except over the Coastal Plain where the dry spell continued into its second week.

INCHES OF RAINFALL, APRIL 1955



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
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S. R. Newell, Director

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N. C. MARCH POULT HATCHINGS BELOW LAST YEAR

Heavy breed turkey poults hatched in North Carolina during March totaled 98,000. This is 40 percent less than hatchings of 164,000 during March of last year. Heavy breed turkey eggs in incubators totaled 271,000 on April 1 compared with 324,000 on the same date last year.

The number of heavy breed poults hatched in the United States during March totaled 7,644,000, compared with 9,369,000 during March last year -- a decrease of 18 percent. The number hatched during the first 3 months is also down 18 percent from the number hatched during these same months last year. Light breed turkeys hatched during March totaled 1,080,000, compared with 1,786,000 during March last year -- a decrease of 40 percent. The number of light breed turkeys hatched January through March totaled 3,496,000, compared with 5,279,000 during the same months last year -- a decrease of 34 percent.

N. C. RYE ACREAGE PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

A rye crop of 247,000 bushels is forecast for North Carolina. This is 23,000 bushels or 8.5 percent less than the 1954 crop of 270,000 bushels.

May 1 condition reports indicate a yield per acre of 13 bushels. This compares with an average yield of 15 bushels last year.

The acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 19,000 acres. This is 1,000 acres above last year and is the highest harvested acreage since 1948 when 22,000 acres were harvested.

Beginning in late summer, egg production will be affected by the sharp drop in laying flock replacement early this year. Twenty-eight percent fewer chicks were on farms April 1 than a year earlier. Prospects are good for a substantial seasonal egg price rise this year.